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Community E-lert®

DATE: August 23, 2005
TO: Community E-lert Recipients
FROM: Jeffrey Chen, Chief of Police
SUBJECT: Community E-lert #05-032

Community E-lert® is a registered trademark of the City of Medina Police Department. This announcement is provided as a public service to residents of Medina and Hunts Point. It is our intention to distribute these E-lerts following an occurrence or condition that may have public safety or community well-being implications. E-lerts are also available via fax for those residents without access to email.

INFORMATION BULLETIN

The Medina Police Department would like to share some helpful information regarding issues that may be of concern to residents.

Solicitors

Medina Municipal Code Chapter 5.12 outlines the regulations solicitors and peddlers must abide by when conducting their business within the City of Medina. Between the hours of 9:00 AM to 9:00 PM, peddling and solicitation are allowed, provided that the individual respects posted signage and leaves the property when asked to do so by the homeowner. If you do not wish to have peddlers or solicitors come to your home, you can indicate your desire by displaying a sign which states "No Trespassing" or "No Soliciting" on your property. If such a sign is posted, solicitors are not allowed to enter the premises. Regardless of signage, if you have an encounter with a solicitor that you believe is suspicious or that makes you feel uneasy and would like to speak to an officer about the incident, please call 425-587-3400 for non-emergency dispatch and an officer will respond.

Cellular Phones and Telemarketing

You may have received an email notification that in the near future your cell phone will be overwhelmed with incoming calls from telemarketing companies as a result of a new cell phone number database. In reality, according to the

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Federal Trade Commission, FCC regulations prohibit the use of automated dialers to call cell phone numbers. Since automated dialers are standard with most telemarketing companies, the majority of telemarketers are not allowed to call consumers on their cell phones without their consent. Consumers have always been able to register their land lines and cellular phones with the National Do Not Call Registry. To register or learn more about the program, visit the registration site at www.donotcall.gov, or call toll-free to 1-888-382-1222 from the phone you wish to register. You can register at any time, as there is no deadline or cut-off date, and your registration will be valid for five years.

Alarm System Notification

If your home is equipped with an alarm system, your monitoring company has a set of instructions that lists who you want contacted and the order of those contacts in the event of an alarm. This contact list allows the monitoring company to attempt to contact someone who can verify whether the alarm is legitimate or false. Ultimately, a decision must be made whether to dispatch an officer to respond. During the process of working through the contact list, precious time is passing that may compromise the responding officer's ability to possibly apprehend a suspect before they leave the scene. The farther down in the contact list, the delay in response increases. Some residents use this delay to safeguard against potential fines for false alarms, but also risk a delayed response in the event of an actual burglary. Only the homeowner can evaluate and decide at what point in the contact list police dispatch should be called. The Medina Police Department recommends you review your contact list with the monitoring company to ensure the notification hierarchy represents your request and the contact numbers are updated. Medina officers are committed to keeping you safe and will promptly respond to alarm calls upon notification from our 911 dispatch.

If you wish to speak or make a comment about this information, please email Chief Chen at ichen@medina-wa.gov.